

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants have amended the claims, and Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Initially, Applicants have added a phrase regarding a switching command for switching from a current head to a switched head. Applicants believe that the inclusion of this phrase, along with designations of whether the servo signals being referred to at various portions of the claim are the servo signals for the current head or for the switched head should overcome most aspects of this rejection by clarifying that the claimed invention is enabled by the disclosure. However, in order to further clarify that the enablement requirement has been met, Applicants will respond to both of the points raised by the Examiner.

The first point raised by the Examiner related to lines 20-21 of Claim 1 (and to similar language in Claim 8) in which the following step is recited “a step of determining a time for reading said servo signal from said output signal of said switched head, in response to said head switching cue.” Applicants have amended this step by removing the phrase “from said output signal” in order to clarify that the time is not determined from the output signal. The determining step is further defined in the last two paragraphs of Claim 1, which recite that the determining step comprises a step of reading a first discrepancy time (which is the time between a standard head and the current head) and reading a second discrepancy time (which is the time between a standard head and the switched head); and a step of

calculating the time difference between the first and second discrepancy time. In one embodiment, the first and second discrepancy times are read from a memory, such as memory 16 of Figure 2. Figure 4, which is a flowchart of one embodiment of the present invention, shows one example of the determining step in blocks S1 through S2. More specifically, the reading steps of the determining step are represented by the second and third blocks of S1, and the calculating step of the determining step is shown in block S2. Similar features are also defined in Claim 8, which is similarly enabled by the flowchart of Figure 8, in addition to other portions of the specification.

The second point raised by the Examiner related to Claims 5 and 12. Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to remove subject matter that is essentially redundant to subject matter of their associated base claims. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 12 now relate to more specifically defining the synchronizing step (or synchronization circuit) as time-shifting the servo gate signal to account for the time difference between the first discrepancy time and the second discrepancy time. For example, Figure 5 shows a case of switching from head 0 to head 1 in which the servo gate signal is time shifted from sample period T_s by the time difference T_d , resulting in an interval of $T_s + T_d$. Another example of such time shifting is shown in Figure 6, which shows another case of switching from head 0 to head 1 in which the servo gate signal is time shifted by being shortened from sample period T_s to interval T_d .

Accordingly, in light of the above-discussion and the claim amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are enabled by the present disclosure. Accordingly, withdrawal of this §112, first paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The claims have been amended to correct for any antecedent basis problems, and to clarify whether a particular servo signal (or a servo gate signal) is associated with the current head or the switched head.

Further, with regard to the following passage of Claim 1: “a step of synchronizing a time of a servo gate signal, of said switched head, for detecting said servo signal, with a time of said servo signal read by said switched head” (as amended). Applicants offer the following comments on this feature. This passage merely refers to synchronizing the servo gate signal (i.e., a calculation of the estimated time for reading a servo signal) with the time that the servo signal is intended to be read. For example, as described above, Figures 5 and 6 show examples of synchronizing the servo gate signal to the time of reading the servo signal of head 1 by either adding the time discrepancy T_d to the standard period T_s (Figure 5) or by using the time discrepancy T_d as the interval (Figure 6).

Additionally, with regard to the following passage of Claim 1: “a step of reading said servo signal from an output signal of said switched head in response to said synchronized servo gate signal and positioning said switched head according to said read servo signal” (as amended). Applicants offer the following comments. This step, one example of which is described, in part, on page 12 (lines 2-26), refers to reading the servo


signal of the switched head (from the output signal of that head), and then using that servo signal that has been read for positioning the head. The time period for reading the servo signal is provided by the synchronized servo gate signal (described in the previous paragraph).

The explanations provided above should also be helpful with regard to Claim 8. Accordingly, in light of the claim amendments and comments provided above, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §112, second paragraph, rejection.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
James K. Folker
Registration No. 37,538

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Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080

Customer No. 24978

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